

A SMALLER PRESIDENTIAL RECTANGLE

LEE SALLOWS

Nijmegen, The Netherlands

After admiring Darryl Francis's new presidential rectangle in **Word Ways** for May 1993, I began wondering if his result could be improved upon. The temptation to have a try finally proved irresistible. The result has rewarded efforts. Francis captures the names of all 37 US presidents within an area of $17 \times 29 = 493$ square units. The rectangle below measures only $19 \times 22 = 418$, a reduction of 75 square units!

To be fair, much credit is still due to Francis since the rectangle below borrows an important concept in his layout, namely the VAN BUREN-HARDING-GRANT-BUCHANAN loop, with its CLEVELAND-FILLMORE-GARFIELD and HARRISON-TRUMAN side branches. A purist's criticism of the new result might be that the POLK-FORD-JACKSON network forms an unconnected island. I challenge readers to go one better and produce a fully-connected layout of the same area.

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      WASHINGTON  CARTER  J
      O          A      J
T    COOLIDGE    Y      C
Y  T  V          L  POLK
L  A  E  J      O  R  S
J  F  F  E  R  S  O  N  F  I  L  L  M  O  R  E  D  O  N
R  T          H  I  E  C          N
      M  O  N  R  O  E  V  K  E  N  N  E  D  Y
E  R          S  L  E  I          P
I  O          S  D  L  I  N  C  O  L  N          I
S  O  H  N      A  L          E
E  S  V  A  N  B  U  R  E  N  E  A  R  T  H  U  R
N  E  R  U      D  Y      E      C
H  V  D  C  T          A      E
O  E  I      H  A  R  R  I  S  O  N  G  H
W  I  L  S  O  N  A  U          A  D  A  M  S
E  T      G  R  A  N  T  M  A  D  I  S  O  N  Y
R          A      A          E
      C  L  I  N  T  O  N      N  I  X  O  N  B  U  S  H

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